

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3793

AN ACT

To amend title 37, United States Code, to require the continued payment to a member of the uniformed services who dies or is retired or separated under chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code, bonuses and similar benefits that the member was entitled to before the death, retirement, or separation of the member and would be paid if the member had not died, retired, or separated, to prohibit requiring the member to repay any portion of the bonuses or similar benefits previously paid, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Guaranteed
 5 Bonus Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONTINUATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO BONUSES**
 7 **AND SIMILAR BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF**
 8 **THE UNIFORMED SERVICES WHO DIE, ARE**
 9 **SEPARATED OR RETIRED FOR DISABILITY,**
 10 **OR MEET OTHER CRITERIA.**

11 (a) DISCRETION TO PROVIDE EXCEPTION TO TERMI-
 12 NATION AND REPAYMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER CER-
 13 TAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Section 303a(e) of title 37,
 14 United States Code, is amended—

15 (1) in the subsection heading, by inserting “;
 16 TERMINATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO UNPAID
 17 AMOUNTS” after “MET”;

18 (2) in paragraph (1)—

19 (A) by striking “A member” and inserting
 20 “(A) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a
 21 member”; and

22 (B) by striking “the requirements, except
 23 in certain circumstances authorized by the Sec-
 24 retary concerned.” and inserting “the eligibility
 25 requirements and may not receive any unpaid

1 amounts of the bonus or similar benefit after
2 the member fails to satisfy the requirements,
3 unless the Secretary concerned determines that
4 the imposition of the repayment requirement
5 and termination of the payment of unpaid
6 amounts of the bonus or similar benefit with re-
7 gard to the member would be contrary to a per-
8 sonnel policy or management objective, would
9 be against equity and good conscience, or would
10 be contrary to the best interests of the United
11 States.”; and

12 (3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as subpara-
13 graph (B) of paragraph (1).

14 (b) MANDATORY PAYMENT OF UNPAID AMOUNTS
15 UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; NO REPAYMENT OF
16 UNEARNED AMOUNTS.—Section 303a(e) of title 37,
17 United States Code, is amended by inserting after para-
18 graph (1), as amended by subsection (a), the following
19 new paragraph (2):

20 “(2)(A) If a member of the uniformed services dies
21 (other than as a result the member’s misconduct) or is
22 retired or separated for disability under chapter 61 of title
23 10, the Secretary concerned—

24 “(i) shall not require repayment by the member
25 or the member’s estate of the unearned portion of

1 any bonus or similar benefit previously paid to the
2 member; and

3 “(ii) shall require the payment to the member
4 or the member’s estate of the remainder of any
5 bonus or similar benefit that was not yet paid to the
6 member, but to which the member was entitled im-
7 mediately before the death, retirement, or separation
8 of the member, and would be paid if not for the
9 death, retirement, or separation of the member.

10 “(B) The amount to be paid under subparagraph
11 (A)(ii) shall be equal to the full amount specified by the
12 agreement or contract applicable to the bonus or similar
13 benefit as if the member continued to be entitled to the
14 bonus or similar benefit following the death, retirement,
15 or separation.

16 “(C) Amounts to be paid to a member or the mem-
17 ber’s estate under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be paid in
18 a lump sum not later than 90 days after the date of the
19 death, retirement, or separation of the member, whichever
20 applies.”.

21 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS REFLECTING CON-
22 SOLIDATED SPECIAL PAY AND BONUS AUTHORITIES.—

23 (1) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 373
24 of title 37, United States Code, as added by section

1 661 of the National Defense Authorization Act for
2 Fiscal Year 2008, is amended—

3 (A) in subsection (a)—

4 (i) in the subsection heading, by in-
5 serting “AND TERMINATION” after “RE-
6 PAYMENT”; and

7 (ii) by inserting before the period at
8 the end the following: “, and the member
9 may not receive any unpaid amounts of the
10 bonus, incentive pay, or similar benefit
11 after the member fails to satisfy such serv-
12 ice or eligibility requirement”; and

13 (B) by striking subsection (b) and insert-
14 ing the following new subsection:

15 “(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

16 “(1) DISCRETION TO PROVIDE EXCEPTION TO
17 TERMINATION AND REPAYMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

18 Pursuant to the regulations prescribed to administer
19 this section, the Secretary concerned may grant an
20 exception to the repayment requirement and require-
21 ment to terminate the payment of unpaid amounts
22 of a bonus, incentive pay, or similar benefit if the
23 Secretary concerned determines that the imposition
24 of the repayment and termination requirements with
25 regard to a member of the uniformed services would

1 be contrary to a personnel policy or management ob-
2 jective, would be against equity and good conscience,
3 or would be contrary to the best interests of the
4 United States.

5 “(2) MANDATORY PAYMENT OF UNPAID
6 AMOUNTS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; NO RE-
7 PAYMENT OF UNEARNED AMOUNTS.—(A) If a mem-
8 ber of the uniformed services dies (other than as a
9 result the member’s misconduct) or is retired or sep-
10 arated for disability under chapter 61 of title 10, the
11 Secretary concerned—

12 “(i) shall not require repayment by the
13 member or the member’s estate of the unearned
14 portion of any bonus, incentive pay, or similar
15 benefit previously paid to the member; and

16 “(ii) shall require the payment to the
17 member or the member’s estate of the remain-
18 der of any bonus, incentive pay, or similar ben-
19 efit that was not yet paid to the member, but
20 to which the member was entitled immediately
21 before the death, retirement, or separation of
22 the member, and would be paid if not for the
23 death, retirement, or separation of the member.

24 “(B) The amount to be paid under subpara-
25 graph (A)(ii) shall be equal to the full amount speci-

1 fied by the agreement or contract applicable to the
 2 bonus, incentive pay, or similar benefit as if the
 3 member continued to be entitled to the bonus, incen-
 4 tive pay, or similar benefit following the death, re-
 5 tirement, or separation.

6 “(C) Amounts to be paid to a member or the
 7 member’s estate under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be
 8 paid in a lump sum not later than 90 days after the
 9 date of the death, retirement, or separation of the
 10 member, whichever applies.”.

11 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

12 (A) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of
 13 such section is amended to read as follows:

14 **“§ 373. Repayment of unearned portion of bonus, in-**
 15 **centive pay, or similar benefit, and termi-**
 16 **nation of remaining payments, when con-**
 17 **ditions of payment not met”.**

18 (B) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of
 19 sections at the beginning of chapter 5 of title
 20 37, United States Code, is amended by striking
 21 the item relating to section 373 and inserting
 22 the following new item:

 “373. Repayment of unearned portion of bonus, incentive pay, or similar benefit,
 and termination of remaining payments, when conditions of
 payment not met.”.

23 (d) CONDITION ON IMPLEMENTATION.—The imple-
 24 mentation by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary

1 concerned (as defined in section 101 of title 37, United
2 States Code) of sections 303a(e) and 373 of such title,
3 as amended by this section, during fiscal year 2008 shall
4 be subject to the availability of funds for this purpose in-
5 cluded in an appropriations Act enacted on or after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives December 18,
2007.

Attest:

Clerk.

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